

News Release



For Immediate Release

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MORE FEES CUT AT STATE PARKS

Annual Passes Reduced, Easier to Use

As of October 1, 2000, the State Department of Parks and Recreation cut the price of its "annual passes" and made them more user friendly. In the past, those passes have cost an average of \$70.00. Those passes will now cost just \$35.00.

Today also, California State Parks will offer a new type of annual pass. Instead of the old style, bothersome, window stickers that required the recording of registration information and a cumbersome second vehicle pass process, the new annual pass will be a "hangtag" that can be hung from the rearview mirror or displayed on the dash. The new "hangtag" may be used on any vehicle, so the owner can use it on rental cars or when visiting a park in a friend's car.

This change comes with the lowering of park fees by Governor Gray Davis and Parks Director Rusty Areias. As of July of this year, fees were cut in half at museums, historic sites and at over 100 day use state parks. In August, fees were reduced at Hearst Castle. And as of January 1, 2001, the fees at the remaining state park facilities, camp grounds and urban beaches, will be reduced. At this same time, the boat launching fee will be eliminated. As an example of fee reductions, Historic site visits have dropped from \$2.00 to \$1.00; Hearst Castle, for a family of four, has dropped from \$42.00 to \$20.00; and, camping fees will drop from as high as \$37.00 per night, to \$12.00.

The new "hangtag" pass program is designed to introduce new people to our parks and the new, simplified pass makes a great holiday gift as it may be used on any vehicle. Those passes issued October through December 2000, will be good through January 31, 2002. They can be purchased at park district offices.

California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>